

**A
WINTER'S
JOURNEY**

Saturday 25 August 2018

“How do we express our humanity through art?”

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Babylon Gate

Take a journey with me back to May '38
My brother lost an eye down at Babylon Gate
They said he'd never make it - the doctors said he'd die
But my brother looked at them out of his one good eye

He said 'I will not lay down, I will not lay still
Until my attacker is struck down and killed
I don't care about justice but I care for revenge
And always in dreams I am raking dirt over his bones.'

For years he was travelling, hunting his dreams
And he cut a lonely figure, hanging ragged at the seams
And for years I didn't know him, until one day just past
He sat upon my doorstep and he held my hands fast.

He said 'Brother I have sinned, I've struck a good man down
I thought it was the lodgings of my enemy I'd found
But when I turned the body over, it was the wrong one
I'm so scared of what I've done, and of the man that I've become.'

'But I can not lay down, I can not lay still
Until my attacker is struck down and killed
I don't care about justice but I care for revenge
And always in dreams I am raking dirt over his bones.'

He said 'I wish I was different, I wish I was good
I wish I loved Jesus, like I probably should.
But I chose this obsession, this lonely path to drive
And if I did not choose it, I wouldn't be alive.'

He said 'Sometimes I'm crying, but I don't understand
Why my dead eye is dry and my mouth feels like sand
And the pain in my belly, like a punch - like hate
It cannons me back to May '38'

CHORUS

'I know that I'll find him', he said with a sigh
'But now if I kill him, will this hate also die?
For my abiding commitment to vengeance and rage
Has made me a dog in another man's cage.'

He said 'Make me a promise, give me your word'
And as I sat beside him I could hear his speech was slurred
'I want you to kill me, it's surely my fate,
And bury my bones under Babylon Gate.'

He said 'Now I'll lay down, now I'll lay still
Though my attacker still bears me ill will
I was blinded by hatred - destroyed by revenge
And always in dreams I am raking dirt over his bones.'

A Happy Song

To those who are unhappy
Let us sing a happy song
Let it rise, let it rise, let it rise

Forget the unbelievers
Forget those who did us wrong
Let it rise, let it rise, let it rise

But I'll save the love song for somebody
Who smiles a sweet smile through their tears
And we'll go a-walking through graveyards
Where the sun shines on so many years
Oh oh...

For those who are unlucky
Let us find a lucky star
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

If you feel that you're abandoned
Here's a song from my guitar
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

CHORUS

The Thief

I'm a man who does his work well
For me there's no glory
A thief's a figure running through the dark
I'll tell you my story

I swear – I thought I was safe
I thought she was sleeping
But I left a little something on the window pane
And I felt myself falling

Every time I leave a home
Through a broken window or an open door
I love you that little bit more
I love you that little bit more
And I know I know, I know I know
That by loving you so
I will lead them to me
I will lead them to me

It must have been fate
It followed my shadow
And all the keys to all the locks
They remembered me
They remembered that window

CHORUS

I see my way now
I see it so clearly
One reason to live
I hold it so dearly

Night is still my companion
I can't lose that feeling
The man has dealt me my hand
And this hand's made for stealing

CHORUS

Forget the future

Faces on clocks, they're laughing at me, laughing at me
they look like they're laughing behind their hands at me

Rivers beside roads they keep on rolling past me rolling past me
Rolling over and over in their beds past me

We stare with wide eyes into our morning seas and our setting suns
We ride our days and our nights toward each other's arms

And lover if you can forget the future
I promise I'll recall our darling past
We're standing in the sea, the tide is dragging you from me
But I will hold you, I will hold you in my arms
And when I let you go, I will hold you in my heart

I've been hearing what the clocks say,
how they wind us and remind us to
Forget the days and remember the hours,
And the minutes, and the seconds

And if there's a moment to escape the mighty tick
and the crashing tock
Then climb to the top of that timeless rock

We stare with wide eyes into our morning seas and our setting suns
We ride our days and our nights toward each other's arms

CHORUS

Beauty and delight

Farewell my own true love I will be sailing far away
Toward the forests of the night
But my own true love, I will bring you back a flower
A bloom of beauty and delight

Oh my love, my true love [repeat after each verse]

My own true love I cannot bear to part from you
But this journey I must take
My own true and faithful heart will bide the nights with you
Watching by your bedside til you wake

Yes my own true love I see the sails begin to fill
With a wind that carries long
And it wakes in me a yearning that I dare not try and quell
For it rises bold and strong

'cause I've heard tell there is a flower in the tropics
That only blossoms in the night
And I'm sailing far away, through the storms of seven seas
To find that beauty and delight

So my own true love please help me get my clothes in order
Help me pack my pipe and drum
And tell my little brother that I'll write as soon I can
Tell him to watch for ships that come

And now my darling one let's shed a tear for this our parting
For there's a truth that I can't fight
My only true love is that selfsame flower of the tropics
The bloom of beauty and delight

I only wish you health, and hope the spring will find you merry
But I'll not return to hold you through the night
But my darling one, I might send you back a flower
A bloom of beauty and delight

Only rivers understand

I left you high on the riverside wide
With your hair laid long in the afternoon tide
I caught myself drinking from your cup
But I know by now this'll never add up

A conversation should be had by two
But all I'm hearing is the hex on you
You come and go like a summertime storm
But all I'm wanting is a bed that's warm

Is it over yet? It ain't over yet.

I see you now floating in my wake
And your hair blooms wild like an old heartbreak
And I need you, I want you, I need you, I need you so bad
That night we danced like a holy flame
I tasted colour when you said my name
'cause I need you, I want you, I need you, I need you so bad

Tides they rise and rivers flow
And surely now the waters know
That Jesus saves the drowning man
But only if he takes his hand

But maybe there the water's warm
A kind of harbour from the thunderstorm
So he turns away the helping hand
Cause only rivers understand

Is it over yet? It ain't over yet.

CHORUS

Sing glory glory to the waters wild
I carry the burden of the river's child
I left you sleeping with your hair laid long
It's in the river that we both belong

Carry me

Carry me home
Home through the evening's tired race

Carry me home
Home to my heart, home to grace

And I'll fly, I'll fly
Over the mountains
Toward the sea
Cos there's a change that's blowing
And it carries me

I've been working way too long
Riding the days into the dust

And I need to tame my troubled mind
To take back the diamonds from the rust

CHORUS

To those in flames

Demons took you from me
But delivered you once more into my arms
And I believe that when apart
You took instruction from their candid appetites
And now you burn so darkly
I no longer know the kingdom of the sun
But the flames that play around us
Have a warmth that gives me chills, it gives me hope

And when you rise, you rise in fire
And when you set in skies all heavy with desire
I say a prayer to those in flames
To those in flames

Teach me how to burn so black
That fire becomes the measure of our nights
So I also in flames can hold you to me
Knowing heat, forsaking fear
For some who rest in safety and in sunlight
Seek a different type of day
So an ember resting dull amongst the ashes
Makes a wish upon a star

CHORUS